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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 EUR-25

DRC-01 /125 W
---------- 037610
O R 011653Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9671
INFO GOV PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PN PFOR
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF KISSINGER VISIT

SUMMARY. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT IS BEING PORTRAYED AS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH COULD BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REALIZATION OF PANAMA'S NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS. GOP OFFICIAL LINE IS TO UNDERLINE THE VISIT'S SIGNIFICANCE AS MARKING A POSITIVE CHANGE A OF ATTITUDE BY U.S. LEADERS. TORRIJOS HOPES THEREBY TO CLAIM SUCCESS OF HIS POLICIES, THEREBY BLUNTING CRITICISM THAT HE IS SACRIFICING PANAMA'S ESSENTIAL INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PANAMA FEBRUARY 7 RECEIVED FEATURE TREATMENT IN MEDIA LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 31 AND MORNING FEBRUARY 1. ARTICLES HAVE TAKEN CARE TO POINT OUT THAT THE VISIT HAS THE PURPOSE OF SIGNING A DOCUMENT CONTAINING AN AGREEMENT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE COLUMN "REVOLUTIONARY FOCUS" IN MATUTINO FEBRUARY 1 WHICH PRESENTS THE GOVERNMENT LINE UNDER PSEUDONYM URRACA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES. THEY REPRESENT A VERY IMPORTANT BEGINNING WHICH
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COULD RESULT IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS THAT

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PANAMA HAS HAD DURING ALL OF ITS LIFE AS A REPUBLIC. URRACA, AFTER POINTING OUT FOR HIS READERS THAT HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN UNTIRING DEFENDER OF PANAMANIAN ASPIRATIONS AND HAD NEVER HESITATED TO DENOUNCE THE COLONIALIST INTRANSIGENCE OF THE U.S. WHEN IT MAINTAINED AN ATTITUDE OF INDIFFERENCE OR OF ATTACK AGAINST PANAMA, WENT ON TO SAY THAT ON THIS OCCASION THINGS WERE DIFFERENT. THE TRIP OF HENRY KISSINGER "TO OUR SOIL, WITH THE LAUDABLE AND VERY DIFFERENT PURPOSE THAN THOSE WHICH MOTIVATED U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AT OTHER TIMES, SHOULD BE WELCOMED. HIS VISIT FOR THESE REASONS MERITS THE RECOGNITION OF OUR PEOPLE."

2. ARTICLE IN EL PANAMA AMERICA ACCOMPANYING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY "HIGH PERSONALITIES" OF THE USG, INCLUDING SENATORS AND POSSIBLY AMBASSADOR BUNKER.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL HOLD ANOTHER PRESS AND TV CONFERENCE AT 10:00 A.M. FEBRUARY 1 TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

4. COMMENT. GOP WILL HAVE HIGHLY FAVORABLE PRESS BUILD UP FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, PORTRAYING IT AS AN INDICATION OF A POSITIVE NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD PANAMA BY THE U.S. AND THAT THE PANAMA ISSUE IS AT LAST GETTING THE ATTENTION IT MERITS. THE KISSINGER VISIT WILL BE PORTRAYED BY GOP AS A VICTORY FOR ITS POLICY. THIS APPROACH IS INTENDED TO BLUNT CRITICISM THAT TORRIJOS IS "SELLING OUT" OR BEING DUPED BY THE U.S.
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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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